THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, sir. Presently there is no scheme to set up fodder bank in the States. Under the old Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development which was impiemented from 1992-1993 up to 2004-2005, 15 States were provided Central Grant for establishment of 37 Fodder banks.

Research benefits on aquaculture and fish farming

500. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of a path-breaking work done by an Indian aquaculturist on expansion of aquaculture and fish farming in South and South-East Asia and Africa which has earned him World Food Prize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have explored/ will explore the possibilities of making available the technology for the benefit of our farmers in the coastal areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian scientist Modadugu V. Gupta has been awarded the 2005 World Food Prize for his work to enhance nutrition for over 1 million people through the expansion of aquaculture and fish farming in South and South-East Asia. Through his. "dedicated sustained efforts in Bangladesh, Laos and other countries in South-East Asia", Dr. Gupta has been selected as the 2005 World Food laureate for developing small scale aquaculture as a viable means for over one million very poor farmers and women to improve their family's nutrition and wellbeing". Dr. Gupta developed unique method of fish farming, requiring little cost while causing no environmental damage. As a result, freshwater fish production has risen dramatically in these countries by as much as tree to five times. Dr. Gupta is the sixth citizen of India to receive the prize.

(c) and (d) the technology referred to had also been developed in India during the decade of 70s under the All India Coordinated Research

Project on Composite Fish Culture by ICAR. The above research projects operated in a number of States in the country in coordination with the State governments. The above technology has been adopted in the country under ongoing programme of Development of Freshwater aquaculture being implemented in the States through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs). As a result, the average pond productivity in fish farming has raised from 0.5 tonnes/ha in the early 1970s to 2.3 tonnes/ha/year at present. With the adoption of above technology, inland fish production in the country has increased from 9.87 lakh tonnes in 1983-84 to 34.57 lakh tonnes in 2003-04.

Constructions of cold storages by NHB

†501. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide 25 per cent of grants has been formulated by the National Horticulture Board for the construction of cold storages of 100 metric tonnes capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Horticulture Board provides grants only to the tune of Rs. 4000/- per metric tonne capacity;

(c) whether the Board would provide grants at the rate of Rs. 15000/- per metric tonne keeping in view the prevailing rates of building material;

(d) if so, the details therof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce" by providing capital investment subsidy @25% of total project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and @ 33.3% of project cost with limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs for North Eastern States for setting up of cold storages of capacity ranging from 10 metric tonnes to 5000 metric tonnes. For the purpose of granting subsidy assistance, the cost of construction of a cold storage unit is taken as Rs. 4000/- per metric tonne, while the subsidy is released @25% of cost or Rs. 1000/- metric tonne in the general areas and Rs. 1200/-metric tonne in the North Eastern States.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.